

The Board Report

March 4, 2019



Disclaimer: *The Board Report is a synopsis of the Hampton Township School Board meetings and is not intended as a replacement for any official Board minutes.*

~ A Tradition of Excellence ~

The Hampton Township Board of School Directors

Bryant Wesley II, Esq.

Mrs. Jill Hamlin

Ms. Denise Balason

Mrs. Pamela Lamagna**

Mrs. Mary Alice Hennessey**

Mrs. Gail Litwiler

Mr. Robert Shages

Mr. Greg Stein*

Mr. Lawrence Vasko

Board President

Board Vice President/Personnel Chair

Board Secretary/Facilities Chair

Transportation Chair

Student Affairs Chair

Educational Programs Chair

Board Treasurer/Policy & Legislative Affairs Chair

Technology Chair

Finance Chair

*** Denotes members participating via teleconference call/video.*

**Denotes members not in attendance.*

Members of Administration in Attendance

Dr. Michael Loughead

Dr. Rebecca Cunningham

Ms. Shari Berg

Dr. Ed McKaveney

Superintendent of Schools

Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Communications Consultant

Technology Director

Public Comment

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- There was no public comment.

Committee Reports

STUDENT AFFAIRS

New Business

Student Representatives Report

Hampton High School Student Representatives Sarah Schreiber and Allison Boretsky presented the following items to the School Board during their report:

- The students are currently focused on planning and fundraising for Talbot THON, which will be held on March 29, 2019. The students have raised \$17,000 toward their \$40,000 goal. One of the fundraising events recently held was a 3-on-3 basketball game for the students. Students also had a Hat Day, in which students could pay \$1 and wear a hat to school. The students encouraged the community to come out and support THON during 5-7 pm during which food trucks and a 50/50 raffle will be available.
- Student representatives will be present at the upcoming Hues & Harmony event on March 19 and March 20 from 5:30 - 8:00 pm at the Student Council ice cream station. They will be accepting donations for ice cream sundaes to support THON.
- Mrs. Hamlin inquired about the Sadie Hawkins Dance. The students said roughly 200 students attended the event this year, which is a fundraiser for the freshman class.

Action Items for Consideration

HHS Forensics Field Trip

The HHS Forensics team is requesting permission to attend the PA High School Speech League 2019 State Tournament in Bloomsburg, PA from March 14-16 at a cost to the District not to exceed \$424. Five student team members have qualified to attend the event.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Action Items for Consideration

Snow Make-Up Day Proposal

HTSD students missed an additional day of school since the last make-up days were approved at the February School Board meeting. After consulting with the leadership team, the Key Communicators, and the HTEA, Dr. Loughead proposed that March 15, 2019 become a make-up day for the students. That day is currently designated as a professional development day for teachers; however, the HTEA has agreed to move the professional development day to the end of the school year so that students do not have to add additional days onto their year in June. Dr. Loughead is also proposing to shift the early release day for elementary students that was scheduled for March 14 to March 15. Dr. Loughead stated that the leadership team would be working with the teacher

leaders to design a different focus for the last professional day of the year. The Board came to a consensus that they would agree to these changes and asked Dr. Loughead to send a note to the families with the updated information. An official vote will occur at next Monday's meeting.

FACILITIES

Action Items for Consideration

Geotechnical Testing Contract

The Board is being asked to consider the approval of Pennsylvania Soil and Rock, Inc. to conduct geotechnical testing for the Fridley Field turf and track replacement projects at an estimated cost of \$3,745. Dr. Loughead said this step will help bidders on the replacement project are assured the surface where the new track and artificial turf will be placed is in good condition and ideal for the work.

New Business

Facility Use Fees

Dr. Loughead provided the Board with an update on the administration's work over the last six months to update facility use fees and policies, which is one of the District's goals this year. As part of the committee, Mr. Kline has proposed an ongoing cost-of-living adjustment to these fees to off-set the fact that the District has not adjusted these fees in the last thirteen years. There is a class of current users, which includes nonprofit community groups, who currently only pay for custodial fees when renting facilities. There would be an adjustment to require these groups to contribute to the cost of using the facilities beyond the custodial fees. Other ideas include an annual user fee or adjusting new fees over the course of the next few years so that organizations could budget appropriately. Some of the Board members asked that the group classifications also be reconsidered and explained more thoroughly so that organizations would be placed in the correct category when renting District facilities. Cost comparisons for other school districts in the area were explored as part of the restructuring of our rental fees. Dr. Loughead said he hopes to have a new framework available for the Board to review and vote on in roughly a month.

FINANCE

Action Items for Consideration

Budget Transfers

The Board is being asked to approve a budget transfer in the amount of \$3,522.00 for HMS, from Office Communications to General Supplies.

Real Estate Tax Appeals

Administration is requesting approval for the District to initiate appeals for 2019 real estate tax assessments based on property transactions in 2018 where the difference between the adjusted purchase price and the 2019 assessment reflects a lost revenue for the District in the amount of \$1,000 or more at the current millage rate of 18.95 mills. Using this criteria, 93 of the 323 transactions that occurred in 2018 will be appealed. Mr. Shages suggested the District may want to have the solicitor send out a letter to area real estate agents gently reminding them that they should disclose to buyers that properties where the assessed value is lower than the purchase price will be appealed by the District as part of normal protocol so home buyers are aware of the impending increase.

AIU3 Program of Services 2019-2020

The Board is being asked to approve the 2019-2020 AIU3 Program of Services, with HTSD's share of the cost estimated at \$48,403. The Program of Services budget is a small portion of the \$150 million annual budget for the AIU3. Mr. Shages noted that there are not many changes from last year's budget and the expenditures have remained fairly consistent.

Old Business

Local Tax Revenue Update

As of February 28, 2019, the delinquent earned income tax is the only tax behind collection expectations. Mr. Vasko said the District is about $\frac{3}{4}$ percent ahead of where it normally is at this time of year for remaining collection.

PERSONNEL

Actions Items for Consideration

Resignation:

1. Accept the resignation of Mr. Jordan Stanopiewicz (effective date to-be-determined). Mr. Stanopiewicz is an Academic Support Biology Teacher and a Long-Term Substitute Biology Teacher at the High School.

Teachers:

2. Approve a change in status for Ms. Emily Marcellus, moving from a Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at Wyland Elementary School to a Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at Hampton High School, from approximately February 26, 2019 through the remainder of the 2018-2019 School Year. Salary remains at \$31,500 pro-rated. (Ms. Marcellus is a substitute for Mr. Michael Zdinak).

Supplementals

3. Approve the following Building/Coaching Supplemental positions for the 2018-2019 School Year, at a rate of \$133 per point: Amanda Spencer, Varsity Track & Field Volunteer.

POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Actions Items for Consideration

Policy #251: Homeless Students

The Board is being asked to consider the first reading of this policy, which addresses how the District identifies homeless children and youth within the District and facilitates their immediate enrollment, while helping to address any barriers to their attendance and education. The policy is required for the District to be in compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.

Informational

Bob Shages provided the following informational items:

- Several Board Members will be meeting with Representative Lori Mizgorski this Wednesday to discuss issues pertinent to the District.
- March 14 at 7 p.m. is the Legislative Session being held at the AIU. As of Monday, six or seven representatives have committed to attending, joined by about 100 school board members from all over Allegheny County.
- April 4 is the AIU convention. The Board will receive an official invitation and registration in the coming weeks.
- Later this week is the PSBA District Meeting in Monroeville.
- Last week as part of the AIU Board, Mr. Shages toured Shuman Center, Head Start programs, DART programs, the Watson Institute, and the Highlands Family Center.

TECHNOLOGY

New Business

Student Device Update

Dr. Loughead and Dr. McKaveney provided an update on the Student Device Initiative in the District. A Bright Bytes survey was administered to parents, students, and teachers in the District to help assess the overall progress of the District, as well as the feedback on the device initiative specifically. The District currently is in Year Two of the four-year roll out period and is planning for Year Three of the plan now. Dr. McKaveney said the technology department is constantly reviewing and fine-tuning the plan as needed. He said technology is no longer an “event” in the schools, but rather an additional tool that is available in the classroom daily. Flexibility, equitability and the mobile aspects of learning have all been realized as part of the device roll out.

The Bright Bytes survey provided the District with data to determine how the roll out is going. Survey results indicate we are ahead of others in the state where access to technology is concerned, and in some categories, the District is considered to be advanced/exemplary. Improving access to WiFi both on campus and on devices students take home has helped to boost the District’s accessibility scores. A total of 1,815 devices have been distributed to students to date.

In addition to providing tools and access to students, Dr. McKaveney mentioned the numerous ways the District has provided professional development to staff members in technology integration and innovation in the classroom.

The technology department also scored well in response times for student and staff support and device repairs and replacements.

The next steps for the District’s device initiative include reviewing the device plans for the upcoming year, reviewing device models which may become available, continuing professional development based on survey results, and the possible implementation of a student-run help desk.

Dr. Loughead said overall, he found the results of the survey to be very encouraging. He commended the leadership team for working well together to incorporate all parts of the teaching and learning into digital technology.

Remake Learning Days

Dr. Cunningham provided an update on the District’s participation in the regional [Remake Learning Days](#) event. Hampton’s Remake Learning Day date will May 15, 2019 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Middle School. This year’s theme is “Innovative Teaching and Learning.” The event is free and open to the public, and the community is welcome to attend.

TRANSPORTATION

There were no action items for consideration this evening.

Public Comment

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- Alicia Rounds asked about District expectations of elementary-aged children using the 1:1 devices while at home. Dr. McKaveney said it would vary depending on the projects students may have had assigned to them to work on at home. He noted that home use increases at the middle and high school levels. Dr. Loughead encouraged her to reach out to her child's teacher, since home use varies from one teacher to the next and the District has encouraged the teachers to lead the way on how much they want to have the devices used at home.
- Mark Farabaugh asked if the current facilities usage fees were available on the District website. Dr. Loughead said the fees are a part of the facilities usage applications. Mr. Farabaugh also asked for an update on the Life-time Learning Academy. Dr. Cunningham said that the committee is currently evaluating the course proposals and that a mailer will be sent to residents with courses which will be offered this spring.

Mr. Wesley announced an executive session for legal and personnel issues. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m. The next regularly-scheduled meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 11 in the Dr. Harold Sarver Memorial Library, HMS.